

## SUMMARY OF WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE FIRE MITIGATION GOALS AND ACTIONS

Listed below is a summary of Kootenai County's wildland urban interface mitigation goals and actions that evolved from community participation and the accompanying technical information. This summary is provided as a quick reference to the detailed statements appearing later in the plan. The symbol that precedes each of the actions identifies the time frame for completion of that activity: short-range ❶, medium-range ❷ or long-range ❸. Short-range actions should be accomplished within a year or two, medium-range within 1 to 5 years, and long-range 5 or more years. Some actions may also be ongoing without regard to assigned time range.

### FIRE MITIGATION GOALS

*Emphasize prevention of wildland urban interface fires using a proactive, cooperative approach with incentive measures.*

*Ensure that the land development ordinances and building codes in Kootenai County support the mitigation of wildland urban interface fire danger.*

*Develop a county wide road and street system that provides for efficient fire fighting and clear evacuation routes.*

*Promote effective fuel treatment programs for homeowners and businesses that are carried out on an ongoing basis in all wildland urban interface areas in Kootenai County.*

*Advocate responsible practices for land development, recreational activities, and commercial operations to reduce loss from wildland urban interface fire on public and private land in Kootenai County.*

*Provide the appropriate resources to maintain an effective emergency response system to wildland urban interface fires in Kootenai County.*

*Sustain a coordinated and cooperative program of timely information and educational programs for county residents, businesses, and recreational home owners.*

### FIRE MITIGATION ACTIONS

#### **PREVENTION**

Activities that reduce and/or keep hazards from getting worse.

**①***Institute a program for creating and maintaining neighborhood fire prevention plans in wildland urban interface areas.*

**①***Designate the Kootenai County Local Emergency Planning Committee's Wildland Urban Interface Task Forces as the responsible entity for ensuring the mitigation plan is implemented.*

**③***Work toward developing county regulations for enforcing access requirements of the fire code.*

**③***Encourage utility companies to reduce ignition fuels and windfall hazards in power line corridors and install underground lines in new subdivisions and when replacing older lines.*

**①***Advocate for water districts to provide emergency access to water supply via hydrants along service delivery lines.*

**①***Limit burning from May 10 through October 20th and in other situations as needed.*

**①***Encourage the North Idaho Building Contractors Association and other local land development professionals to build a model residential development demonstrating best management practices for fire safety.*

**①***Contact outside communities and agencies to learn what wildland urban interface fire prevention techniques worked and those that did not and incorporate this knowledge in future fire mitigation activities.*

**③***Encourage all land development ordinances and codes to include:*  
*-requirements for adequate water supply for fire fighting,*  
*-two means of ingress and egress where feasible,*  
*-incentives for construction with fire resistant materials,*  
*-additional fire protection measures for large structures*  
*-pertinent sections of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Code.*

## **PROPERTY PROTECTION**

Activities undertaken by property owners.

**①***Establish a program for home owners offering an assessment of the fire safe worthiness of their property and an incentive system to use fire safe building materials and reduce fuel loads on their property.*

***①Promote research and development projects such as a model program to research use of an emergency generator connected to home electric and pump systems.***

***②Offer individual homeowners a fuel treatment plan that reduces large pieces of wood into fireplace wood and disposes of other debris.***

***①Publish an annual list of local contractors who build fire safe structures and/or create survivable space.***

***①Sponsor an annual clean-up, fuels reduction week with incentives such as business related discounts and free pickup of waste materials.***

***①Offer individual homeowners a fuel treatment plan that reduces large pieces of wood into fireplace wood and disposes of other debris and organize a community service projects to assist elderly and handicapped homeowners reduce fuel loads on their property***

#### ***NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION***

Activities to preserve or restore natural areas or natural functions.

***③Identify “road blocks” federal agencies encounter in treating slash fuels and fuels in general.***

***②Encourage property owners to use grant programs to create retention facilities which can serve a dual purpose as water supplies.***

***①Explore the potential of making slash and deadfall available for firewood for senior citizens and handicapped or low income residents and use good wood for lumber for charitable purposes.***

#### ***EMERGENCY SERVICES***

Measures taken to prepare for, during and after a fire to minimize its impact.

***③Maintain and activate an interagency joint information center of local, state and federal agencies during wildland fires that ensures accurate, up to date information is delivered to the public.***

***①Maintain an interagency radio link to assure effective communication and coordination between Kootenai County Disaster Services, Fire Districts and state and federal agencies.***

**②***Assist efforts of fire districts to coordinate a minimum standard for wildland urban interface training, have Public Information Officers, and maintain a sufficient number of Type III qualified personnel.*

**①***Produce, on an ongoing basis, up-to-date hard copy and electronic county maps with evacuation routes, hospitals, road names, and current addresses and latitude and longitude.*

**②***Keep current and distribute evacuation plans with safety zones and information which encourages homeowners to evacuate in a timely manner.*

**①***Encourage families to designate a meeting place and phone contact during and after fire evacuation.*

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

*Activities that advise about hazards and ways to protect people and property.*

**①***Develop an interagency agreement to assure consistency during emergencies between information and education programs for homeowners to avoid people getting “different stories”.*

**③***Purchase, install and maintain Smokey Bear Signs (high, moderate, low fire conditions) in wildland urban interface neighborhoods.*

**①***Work with insurance companies and Realtors to publish a “Welcome to Fire Country” type pamphlet to distribute with building permit applications and residential sales agreements.*

**①***Build and maintain a demonstration trailer with a good/bad example of residential building materials and survivable space.*

**①***Supply real estate professionals, insurance providers, and building contractors with information on wildland urban interface fire risks and hazards to assist buyers and sellers to be better informed.*

**③***Work with local educators to establish a wildland fire component in the public schools’ fire education program.*

**①***Develop an interactive internet site with a wildland urban interface fire theme for questions, comments, sign-up for home evaluations, volunteer opportunities, and targeted information for recreational home owners.*

**①***Support the efforts of the Kootenai County Fire Prevention Co-op and other agencies at the County Fair and Safety Day at Silver Lake Mall.*